

Remarks

The Office action mailed December 14, 2005, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 1 has been amended for further clarification. Claims 4-15, 22 and 29-68 have been canceled. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 12 and 16-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Keefer '903 or Keefer '121 in view of Keefer '050. Similarly, claims 1-3, 12 and 16-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Keefer '903 or Keefer '121 in view of Petit et al. Claim 1 has been amended to include "contacting a purge gas stream with the adsorbent material in the flow paths wherein the purge gas stream includes oxygen so as to provide heat in the flow paths by catalytic combustion of a reactant component." None of the references relied upon by the examiner disclose or suggest such a purge gas stream. Accordingly, the pending obviousness rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 12 and 16-28 have been rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-92 of U.S. Patent No. 6,406,523 (the '523 patent). The claims of the '523 patent do not suggest or teach "contacting a purge gas stream with the adsorbent material in the flow paths wherein the purge gas stream includes oxygen so as to provide heat in the flow paths by catalytic combustion of a reactant component" as now recited in claim 1. Accordingly, this obviousness-type double patenting rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 12 and 16-28 have been rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-92 of U.S. Patent No. 6,051,050 (the '050 patent). The claims of the '050 patent do not suggest or teach "contacting a purge gas stream with the adsorbent material in the flow paths wherein the purge gas stream includes oxygen so as to provide heat in the flow paths by catalytic combustion of a reactant component" as now recited in claim 1. Accordingly, this obviousness-type double patenting rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 12 and 16-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. The language of claim 1 could cover embodiments in which gas is both supplied to and withdrawn from the first valve face, gas is both supplied to and withdrawn from the second valve face, gas is withdrawn from the second valve face if supplied to the first valve face, and/or gas is withdrawn from the first valve face if supplied to the second valve face. There is no ambiguity that the claim language contemplates all of these possibilities. There is no

reason why applicants should not be allowed to claim all of these embodiments. Simply because all these embodiments are covered does not, by itself, render claim 1 indefinite.

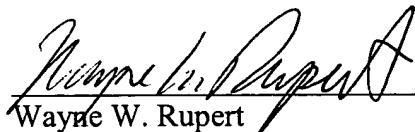
The amendment to claim 23 has obviated the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any questions regarding this application, Examiner Langel is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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